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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472)]

70/200. Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/212 of 21 December 2001, 60/190 of 22 December 2005 and 65/148 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[2] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[3] as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway", as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 69/137 of 12 December 2014,

Recalling further the Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 10 October 1980,[4] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[5] Agenda 21 of 14 June 1992[6] and the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism of 11 November 2000,[7]

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[4] A/36/236, annex, appendix I.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] A/55/640, annex.

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Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recognizing, inter alia, that well-designed and well-managed tourism can make a significant contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, has close linkages to other sectors and can create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities,

Recognizing also the important dimension and role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life for all people, its potential to make a contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, especially of developing countries, and its emergence as a vital force for the promotion of international understanding, peace and prosperity,

Welcoming the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the launching of the sustainable tourism programme of the framework, and encouraging further implementation through capacity-building projects and initiatives to support sustainable tourism,

Noting the importance of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, which outlines principles to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the various stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism on the environment and on cultural heritage while maximizing the benefits of tourism in promoting sustainable development, poverty alleviation and gender equality as well as understanding among nations,

Taking note of resolution 668 (XXI), adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization at its twenty-first session, held in Medellin, Colombia, from 12 to 17 September 2015, on a draft convention on tourism ethics,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the work of the World Tourism Organization and its World Committee on Tourism Ethics in the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics

[8] A/70/224.

for Tourism, as adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization in 1999;[9]

3. *Encourages* the World Tourism Organization, through its World Committee on Tourism Ethics, to continue to promote and disseminate the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and to monitor the implementation of the ethical principles related to tourism by both the public and private sectors;

4. *Welcomes* the growing interest among Member States, especially among the States and territories members of the World Tourism Organization, and their increasing institutional and legal commitment towards the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, reiterates its invitation to those Member States and other tourism stakeholders, in particular in the private sector, that have not yet done so to introduce, as appropriate, the principles of the Global Code into their relevant laws, regulations, professional practices and codes of conduct, and in this regard expresses appreciation to those Member States and industry practitioners that have already done so;

5. *Recognizes* the need to promote the development of sustainable tourism, including non-consumptive tourism and ecotourism, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, the World Ecotourism Summit, 2002, the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism[10] and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, so as to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities while maintaining the cultures and the environmental integrity of those communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and of the natural heritage, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change, halting the loss of biodiversity, safeguarding cultural artefacts and promoting respect for living culture, heritage and traditions;

6. *Invites* the States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders to support the activities undertaken by, inter alia, the World Tourism Organization for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, including in the context of capacity-building to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products, including by empowering women and youth and extending the benefits of tourism to all sectors of society, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population, while minimizing its negative impact;

7. *Recalls* the related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[11] which, inter alia, aim to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products as well as develop tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution within his report related to sustainable tourism, in consultation with the World Tourism Organization, and decides to include an item entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

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[9] See E/2001/61, annex.

[10] A/57/343, annex.

[11] Resolution 70/1.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015